

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1519

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C O N F I D E N T I A L PONTA DELGADA 0371

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, PO

SUBJ: AZOREAN DEVELOPMENTS: BASE NEGOTIATIONS

REF: (A) PONTA DELGADA 368 (DTG 311610Z AUG 76,

(B) LISBON 5762 (DTG 241121Z AUG 76

1. BASE NEGOTIATIONS: A LOCAL DAILY ON AUGUST 31 CARRIED AN INTERVIEW WITH FOREIGN MINISTER MEDEIROS FERREIRA WHO SAID THAT THE GOP HAS TOLD THE USG OF ITS INTENTION TO BEGIN NEGOTIATIONS ON THE USE OF LAJES. THE FOREIGN MINISTER RELATED THAT THE START OF NEGOTIATIONS WILL DEPEND ON THE USG. HE ADDED THAT THE LABOR PROBLEMS OF THE BASE CAN BE DEALT WITH UNDER THE OLD AGREEMENT AND THAT THESE PROBLEMS WOULD BE RESOLVED BY THE COMPETENT DEPARTMENTS OF THE GOP.

2. CONVERSATION WITH MOTA AMARAL: MOTA AMARAL SAID HE HAD HEARD FROM SOCIALIST SOURCES OF SOME STIRRING ON BASE NEGOTIATIONS AND ASKED IF THERE WERE ANY NEWS. HE WAS INFORMED OF SECOND PARAGRAPH OF REF (B). HE RELATED THAT IN THE NEW REGIONAL GOVERNMENT HE, AS PRESIDENT, WOULD DEAL WITH ALL MATTERS CONCERNING OTHER COUNTRIES: I.E., BASE NEGOTIATIONS, TECHNICAL
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ASSISTANCE. ALTHOUGH AID PROGRAMS WILL INVOLVE DIFFERENT PEOPLE

AND ORGANIZATIONS, EVERYTHING SHOULD BE COORDINATED WITH THE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE.

3. SOARES TO ATTEND REGIONAL ASSEMBLY OPENING: REGIONAL ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT, ALVARO MONJARDINO, TOLD ME THAT THE PRIME MINISTER, THE PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, THE PRESIDENT OF THE SUPREME COURT AND OTHER DIGNATARIES NOW PLAN TO ATTEND THE SEPTEMBER 4 FORMAL OPENING OF THE REGIONAL ASSEMBLY. IN CONTRAST TO PRESIDENT EANES, SOARES AND COMPANY HAVE NOT BEEN INVITED BY THE ASSEMBLY. IN FACT, WHEN ASKED, MONJARDINO ADVISED SOARES NOT TO COME.

4. THE PRESS REPORTS THAT THE MINISTER OF THE REPUBLIC, GALVAO DE FIGUEIREDO, WILL BRING A STAFF WITH HIM OF ADVISORS FOR: 1) SOCIAL COMMUNICATIONS; 2) FINANCE; 3) AGRICULTURE AND FISHING; AND 4) JURIDICAL MATTERS. IN ADDITION HE WILL HAVE A PRIVATE SECRETARY AND AN ASSISTANT IN LISBON TO WORK WITH THE PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS. THE STAFF OF THE MINISTER OF THE REPUBLIC IS NOT ENVISIONED IN THE STATUTE OF AUTONOMY AND IT APPEARS FIGUEIREDO ARRANGED IT WITHOUT CONSULTING AZOREANS. WHEN ONE PPD LEADER HEARD OF IT, HE REMARKED THAT IT WAS A RETURN TO LAST YEAR'S TUTELAGE FROM LISBON.

5. COMMENT: BOTH THE INTENTION OF MARIO SOARES AND OTHER SENIOR GOP OFFICIALS TO ATTEND THE REGIONAL ASSEMBLY OPENING AND GALVAO DE FIGUEIREDO'S LARGE STAFF ARE AROUSING SOME UNEASINESS AMONG AZOREAN LEADERS WHO ARE SENSITIVE TO THE GOP'S HEAVY HAND. MOTA AMARAL'S QUESTION ON THE BASE NEGOTIATIONS IS ANOTHER INDICATION THAT AZOREANS DO NOT COMPLETELY TRUST THE GOP.
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